



Spring Clean Kicks Off April 5

Spring is just around the corner, which means it is time to start planning for Seattle’s premier neighborhood cleanup event! Now in its 22nd year, Spring Clean brings residents together to tackle neighborhood and public space beautification projects.

This year Spring Clean runs from Saturday, April 5 to Saturday, May 31. Past projects include litter pick ups, weeding of traffic circles and planting strips, removal of invasive plants such as English Ivy, storm drain stenciling, and graffiti removal. Spring Clean participants can receive free resources from Seattle Public Utilities including tools, clean-up bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste collection.

Spring Clean is part of Mayor Nickels’ Clean and Green Initiative. For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/util and search "Spring Clean" or call (206) 233-7187.

Be Prepared, Be Safe

After a disaster, you and your family should be prepared to be on your own for at least three days. In some emergencies, such as an influenza pandemic, you may need to prepare for a week or more. Emergency response teams will be busy and may not be able to provide immediate care to all who need it.

Be prepared before the emergency:

- Build a Family Emergency Kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- Have a Family Disaster Plan.



Learn how to make an Emergency Kit and a Disaster Plan for you and your family at www.seattle.gov/emergency.



Hitch Your Wagon

Join your neighbors and start removing graffiti from your streets today! The Red Wagon Paint-Out Program provides free materials and training to volunteers who want to remove unsightly graffiti in their community.

Volunteers who complete the training will receive their own Red Wagon fully-equipped with graffiti removal items, including paint, rollers, rags and screens.

Take a stand against graffiti. Call (206) 684-3056 for more information or to sign up today.

Changes Coming in 2009

Seattle’s new solid waste collection contracts will provide numerous recycling changes and service improvements next year, including:

- Seattle’s food and yard waste collection program will be offered to 30,000 single-family residential households who are currently not subscribed to the program or composting at home. Subscribers will be allowed to put all food scraps in their cart and the cart will be collected weekly.
- A move to “single-stream recycling,” allowing residential customers to combine all recyclables into a single bin.
- More items will be recyclable. Residential curbside customers will be able to recycle more plastic materials in addition to the paper, cardboard, glass, tin, aluminum and plastic items they currently recycle.
- New low-emission garbage and recycling trucks (60 percent bio-diesel blend and 40 percent compressed natural gas) will dramatically reduce key pollutants in neighborhoods.

These service changes will commence April 2009. For more details on Seattle’s recycling programs, look for upcoming issues of *CurbWaste & Conserve* or sign up for CurbWaste E-News at www.seattle.gov/lists.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURBWASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Spring 2008

You Set a Record!

Congratulations! You helped Seattle set a new record for recycling! In 2006, Seattleites recycled 47 percent of all their waste, up from 38 percent in 2003. This jump in recycling reflects your growing support for Seattle’s ordinance that prohibits recyclables in the garbage. Last year, fewer than 1,000 household garbage cans were left behind for having too many recyclables in them, and more than 95 percent of inspected apartments and businesses recycled correctly. To learn more about Seattle’s recycling ordinance, call (206) RECYCLE (732-9253) or visit www.seattle.gov/util.

What's In Your Garbage?

Seattleites throw more than 400,000 tons of garbage into the landfill every year. The City of Seattle recently did a study on what residents are throwing in the trash - and the results are surprising!

Food scraps take up one-third, or 45,000 tons, of residential trash each year. If you put your vegetative food scraps in your yard waste cart, they will be made into compost for local parks and gardens instead of being dumped in the landfill.

Nearly 20 percent of our garbage is made up of recyclable paper, including cardboard boxes, magazines, and junk mail. Why waste a good thing? For every pound of paper you recycle, three pounds of greenhouse gas emissions are saved. Better yet, remove your name from “junk” mail lists at www.dmachoice.org/consumerassistance.php. Removing your name online is free but mail-in requests cost \$1.

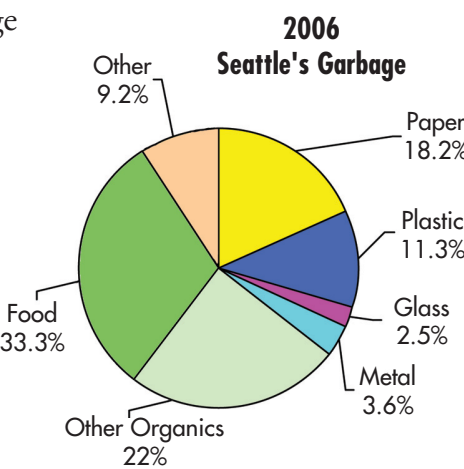


City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities
Chuck Clarke, Director

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Compost Bins and Rain Barrels Available Now



Thousands of local families are doing their part to help the environment by composting and collecting rainwater at home. You can too! Buy high quality compost bins and rain barrels at a fraction of retail prices. Seattle Public Utilities customers qualify for deep discounts when they buy compost bins and rain barrels online at www.seattle.gov/binsandbarrels.

Two types of bins provide great garden composting:
Food Composting Bins: Two Green Cone food waste bins provide an easy-to-use composting system that allows you to fill one bin while the other works to turn food waste into compost.
Two cones for \$40. One cone for \$25. Limit two per household.

Yard Waste Compost Bins: A yard waste bin transforms your yard clippings into a wonderful soil builder. \$25 each. Limit one per household.

Rain Barrels: Fully assembled, high quality rain barrels. Colors are blue and terracotta. \$65 each, plus tax. No purchase limit.

Have your order delivered right to your front yard. For details see www.seattle.gov/binsandbarrels or call (206) 684-0190.

savvy gardener Saturday Series

Discover beautiful plant combinations that will thrive in your garden, learn how lawns can be lush and chemical-free and attend a fair with some of Seattle's leading environmental gardening experts. For locations, descriptions and upcoming events, look for “Savvy Gardener Classes” at www.savingwater.org or call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224.

- ◆ ***Favorite NW Natives for Sun and Shade***
Saturday, April 12, 10 –11:30 a.m.
- ◆ ***Drought Tolerant Beauties for Dry Soil***
Saturday, April 26, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ ***Spring Garden Fair***
Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- ◆ ***Natural Lawn Care for Healthy Pets, Family and the Environment***
Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m. – noon.

Get Great Garden Ideas for Free

Get savvy in the garden this year. Subscribe to The Savvy Gardener e-newsletter to hear about classes, seasonal advice from local designers, news about discounted products, and places to go for gardening know-how. The newsletter is e-mailed four times a year for free! To subscribe or view our latest issues, go to www.savingwater.org/outside_savvygardener.htm.



Garden Hotline: Your Garden, Our Expertise

Need answers to your gardening questions? Call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 to talk with an expert in northwest natural garden care for free!

The Garden Hotline offers practical, safe and effective solutions for your gardening questions. The Garden Hotline is staffed by professional gardeners and horticulturists who will give you information for your gardening questions. Ask the Garden Hotline about:

- ◆ Plant care recommendations
- ◆ Safe, natural solutions for pests and plant diseases
- ◆ Water conservation methods
- ◆ Natural lawn care solutions
- ◆ Composting advice



The Garden Hotline serves all King County residents and is free, fast and reliable. Call (206) 633-0224 or e-mail help@gardenhotline.org.

www.gardenhotline.org
(206) 633-0224
Your Garden. Our Expertise

Garden Green, Save Money

Northwest Natural Yard Days is back! Get substantial discounts on products for environmentally-friendly gardening from April 15 – May 15 at participating retailers. Retailers will offer discounts of up to 25 percent on environmentally-friendly yard care products including electric mulching mowers and push reel mowers; compost and bark mulch; organic fertilizers; watering wands and soaker hoses; less-toxic slug, moss and insect control products; and weed pullers.



Don't miss out! For information about the sale, visit www.yarddays.com or call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224.

Trade In Your Gas-Guzzling Mower

Why not recycle your old gas mower and upgrade to an environmentally-friendly push or electric mower? Gas mowers are significant generators of greenhouse gas emissions, are noisy and can be difficult to use. Electric mulch mowers are quiet, start at the touch of a button, and recycle your grass clippings to fertilize your lawn.

Seattle residents can recycle their gas mower for free at the North or South Recycling & Disposal stations, and from April 15 to May 15, they'll get a \$25 coupon towards a push mower or electric mulch mower. If you purchase your push or electric mower at a Northwest Natural Yard Days store, you can double your savings!



Dear Evelyn:
When I buy my groceries should I ask for paper bags or plastic bags?

One word: neither! Bring canvas or durable plastic bags to use over and over again at the store. Manufacturing disposable bags consumes valuable resources like trees, water, and energy and the bags take up landfill space. Plastic bags are also a litter problem, where they can become harmful to animals through ingestion or strangling.



Many grocery stores sell inexpensive, durable bags, some as low as a dollar. The bags come in a variety of colors and fold up neatly. You can make a one-time investment for less than the cost of a cup of coffee, and make a difference!

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov

Dear Evelyn:
Do I need to rinse out bottles and cans? What about water conservation?

Cans and bottles should be empty, but they don't need to be sparkling clean. Don't pour gallons of water down the drain trying to scrub out a used up peanut butter jar!

Cans and bottles are fine with just a quick rinse. I often swish or even scrub mine out (if necessary) in a dish pan of soapy water I've used for other dish washing. Don't fill up your dishwasher with recyclables, but there's usually room for a few cans. Water is precious, and so are the resources found in recyclables.

Dear Evelyn:
Where does my trash, yard waste and recycling end up?

Seattle sends its garbage to a landfill in Arlington, Oregon, where it sits there... forever! Recycled paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum and steel are sent all over the country, as well as to Canada and Asia, to be made into new items, such as newspaper, apple boxes, bottles, jars, cans, construction materials, auto parts and even fleece clothing.

Yard and food scraps are sent to Cedar Grove's high-tech facility in Everett, where they are made into compost for local plants and gardens. In 2006, Seattle residents diverted more than 150,000 tons of material from the landfill by using their recycling and food and yard waste carts!

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241.
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.